



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**Department of Education**  
**120 State Street**  
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## **Education Governance Recommendations Report Released by Commissioner Richard H. Cate**

**MONTPELIER** – On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Education Commissioner Richard H. Cate submitted his report on education governance in Vermont to the House and Senate Committees on Education. Act 82 of 2007, section 19, an act relating to education quality and cost control, required the commissioner to report on the department's public engagement process and recommend changes to the current structure of our education system.

Cate's recommendations include:

- Requiring existing school districts with fewer than 1500 students to collaborate with other districts of their choosing to become part of a larger district with a single school board and superintendent.
- Setting a date certain by which districts would meet the size requirement or be merged into another district by state action.
- Using the new combined student populations and education spending to calculate tax rates. Allowing new school districts to decide how best to enable citizens to be engaged in building-level decision making.
- Appropriating \$15 million from the education fund in each of the two years of transition to a new governance structure to pay for the costs incurred by districts associated with governance change.
- Allowing school choice for all high school students.
- Before doing any of the above, having Legislature contract with a polling firm to design and conduct an opinion poll of Vermonters regarding the question of need for education governance change.

"I understand that some people are concerned about the potential effects of changing our education governance structure, but I am concerned that our students will be disadvantaged if we do not change it. I am convinced that Vermonters are creative enough to be able to retain that which we value in our education system while changing it in a way that better serves students in a more efficient manner", said Cate.

The full report, attachments and other information regarding education governance can be found on the Department of Education's Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/legislative\\_reports.html#act 82 sec 19](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/legislative_reports.html#act_82_sec_19).